

12-10-99 EWCH

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To the Honorable:
Mark Van Norman, Dept. of Justice
John Berry, Dept. of Interior
Ka Lahui Hawai'i
Including Panelists

Attention: Hawaiian Justice

From: Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon, Hawaiian Studies Major
51-310 Kekio Rd, Ka'a'awa, HI 96730

Dear Honorable Americans and Hawaiian Supporters,

It has been brought to my attention that the Justice Department is here to listen, investigate, and possibly develop a consensus between Native Hawaiians and the United States of America. I want to better my people and I want reparations for my people. I want to stop the oppression, the poverty, the racism, the exclusion, and the desecration of land. We want a land base. We want it now! I cannot stand the laughter when we demand that the military pay rent for occupied areas such as Pearl Harbor, Makua Valley, Kāne'ohe Marine Base, etc. . . The State of Hawai'i still owes Native Hawaiians money for the ceded lands which is about 2.2 million acres. We do not want the Federal government to define us. We wish to define ourselves by either genealogy or my certified document and not be defined as 50% Hawaiian, less or more.

My ancestors opposed annexation, statehood, and were "white washed" to not like their own culture and to be ashamed of themselves. You cannot understand the pain and deprivation of a indigenous people, of the Hawaiian people if you have not breathe for the people, land, cultural, and history. Presently we are faced to live in a capitalists society that exceeds an overwhelmed expectation that Hawaiians cannot measure up to. We are always removed from our own land by land owners. I cannot articulate the emptytiness and the dark fear and deep sadness that my people have experienced since the arrival of Cook because many of you have not been into our world. I want to be of service for my people and I want the best for them. We think that if Hawaiians have control of land, water, and choose their own level of Sovereignty and regulate our own powers of lands, and are paid in cash for all the rent time, then we will overcome our own poverty, we will overcome our own loss, and we will become independent instead of being victims of greedy, paper money dolls who continue to exploit us.

We are human beings that have been silent for too long, we are human beings that have a responsibility to take care of the land and to take care ourselves. The United States has acted as a parent to Hawaiians and we are now saying let us go and grow up our own way.

Sincerely yours,

E 'Ike kākou Kuleana,
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